

BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS

A PERSPECTIVE OF THE STAGE AND STAGE PEOPLE---LOCAL THEATRICALS

IS AMERICAN TO THE CORE

"The Man of the Hour" Reflects a Phase of Life Essentially National.

Not since Beaumarchais sent all France into laughter with his immortal "Marriage of Figaro" has another play caught the reflection of the times, and held it like the "Man of the Hour," which will be the attraction at the Grand Friday, September 18. It is American to the core, reflecting a phase of American life so essentially national, racial, and peculiar to ourselves that there is not a community from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific that has not accepted it as a picture of local conditions. In New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, popular opinion was vociferously expressed by "That's us." As the story of the play spread from coast to coast and from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, editorial opinion was expressed in a hearty "that's us." This unanimous and widespread disposition to make local application of Mr. Broadhurst's dramatic picture is a spontaneous and genuine tribute to the author's keen appreciation of the essentials of American life and character. Indeed, until "The Man of the Hour" was made known, the nearest approach to greatness in plays of American life was thence dealing with neighborhoods or sections.

The attitude of the press has been most interesting because wholly unusual. On the day following the New York City production, there was perfect unanimity among all the newspapers as to the success and worth of "The Man of the Hour." This was echoed in the weekly papers, and repeated in the monthly and quarterly magazines. Educational bodies gave formal endorsement to the play without managerial solicitation.

William A. Brady and Joseph R. Gramer, the managers thus complimented, have left nothing undone to put before the public, in first-class manner, what is critically and popularly regarded as "The greatest play

of the day." All seats laid away must be called for before 12 o'clock Friday. All out of town orders must have remittance with order. Seat sale begins Thursday morning, September 17.

HERE AND THERE

Edgar Selwyn, under the management of Henry B. Harris, will offer the first presentation of "Pierre of the Plains" at Toronto September 21.

Rose Stahl inaugurated her third season in James Forbes's comedy, "The Chorus Lady," at the Grand opera house, New York, last Monday.

Robert Edson is in his third week at the Hudson Theater, where Henry B. Harris is presenting him in George Broadhurst's play, "The Call of the North."

The date for the first production of "On the Eve," Doctor Leopold Kamp's play, Americanized by Martha Morton, has not yet been announced by Mr. Harris, but it will in all probability be some time in December.

Dorothy Donnelly, at present appearing as Shirley Rosemore in "The Lion and the Mouse," will later be withdrawn from this company by Henry B. Harris and put forward as a star in a play by Charles Klein, as yet unnamed.

"The Third Degree," Charles Klein's latest play, will have its premiere in Boston, some time in November. "The Lion and the Mouse" and the play for Miss Donnelly will make five productions from which this author will look to Henry B. Harris for royalties.



MISS HARRIET ROSS IN "THE MAN OF THE HOUR"

HOLDS WORLD RECORDS

AT FAIRMONT.

Sousa holds world records for single band performance receipts; single day's receipts; receipts for three performances in two days; receipts in a single week, and for crowds drawn to long term seasons at summer resorts, expositions, world's fairs as at the Chicago and St. Louis exposition, world's fairs, the Paris exposition, etc.

FIREMEN'S CARNIVAL

WHAT WHEELING HAS.

Smith's Greater Shows is to give a firemen's carnival in Morgantown, to receive the favorable attention of many fair visitors at the Grand.

MADE MR. SOUSA PAY FOR HIS OWN MUSIC

Noted Composer Found Pirated Music by "Giovanni Filippo Sousa."

(John Philip Sousa in Town Topics, New York.)

I am constrained to say without violating any confidence, that to my certain knowledge many of my compositions, like the shot that was fired at Bunker Hill, have been heard round the world. At the time the "Washington Post" was enjoying a vogue in Europe equal to its popularity in this country, my wife and I went abroad to spend some months in the southern part of Europe. While we were in Venice, strolling in St. Mark's square, the municipal band came out and gave its usual concert. The performance naturally interested me, and after listening to several numbers, finally to my delight I heard the band strike up the "Washington Post" march. While they were still playing I noticed a music shop on one side of the square and into it I went. I said, with becoming gravity to the shop-keeper: "Will you kindly tell me the name of the piece the band is now playing?" He listened a moment and replied: "It is the 'Washington Post' march." "I would like to have a copy of it," I said. He looked in a shelf, found to his regret he was out of copies, but assured me if I would return in an hour he would have one for me. In an hour Mrs. Sousa and I returned and the shopkeeper had an Italian edition of the "Washington Post" march by Giovanni Filippo Sousa. I took the copy, went to the piano, played the first two measures, and looking smilingly at the shopkeeper, said, "Yes, that's it—that is the piece the band was playing. I see here on the title page it is composed by one Giovanni Filippo Sousa. Who is this Sousa?" "Oh," said the shopkeeper, "he is one of our famous Italian composers." "Indeed, I am delighted to hear it. Is he as famous as Verdi?" "Well, I should not say as famous as Verdi; he is young yet." "Have you ever seen him?" I asked. "I do not remember," I would like, with your permission," I said, "to introduce you to his wife. This is Signora Giovanni

VERNON COMPANY IS COMING HERE

Repertoire is Booked at the Grand for Old Fair Week.

Arrangements have been completed to bring the famous Vernon Stock Company to the Grand opera house the week of September 22.

The Vernon Stock Company has been permanently located in several of the larger Eastern cities, and only makes a few week stands during the season, and during its tour carries everything complete for the different productions of the plays presented during its engagement.

The plays presented by this stock company are of the highest order, chief of which is Mark Swann's great plays, "A Runaway Match," "At the Risk of His Life," and "The Unwritten Law." "The Devil," a new play, is also a feature, and all the lovers of a \$1.50 attraction will certainly be pleased with the popular prices of the Vernon Stock Company.

JUST A DOZEN

There are just a dozen people in the cast of "Pierre of the Plains," in which Henry B. Harris is to present Edgar Selwyn. They are Miss Elsie Ferguson, Miss Grace Howard, Mr. Joseph Adelman, Mr. Scott Siggins, Mr. George Schaffer, Mr. Paul Dick-ey, Mr. Richard Sterling, Mr. Harrison Armstrong, Mr. Clifford Stork, Mr. Walter Craven and Mr. Fred Turner.

WHAT PARKERSBURG HAS.

Our old friend Galvani, the hypnotist, appears at Camden theater, Parkersburg, September 15 and 16. "Under Southern Skies" is there the following night. This week the Mavoral Company, presenting the great talking pictures, holds the boards there.

FIRST NIGHT

Of a Comic Opera Wheeling Will Have at Court Theatre.

After months of preparation and five weeks of rehearsal in New York City, the big comic opera company presenting "Marigold," will leave New York Friday night with two baggage cars of scenery and effects and carrying two Pullmans with the sixty people who will appear in the opera, arriving in Wheeling Saturday night. They will rehearse Sunday and Monday at the Court theater, and Tuesday night will give the first performance on any stage of "Marigold." The opera is a political satire.

ENGAGES MISS M'LAUREN.

Kate McLaughlin, a niece of Ex-Senator McLaughlin of Mississippi, has been engaged by Henry B. Harris and Maurice Campbell for important roles with Henrietta Crossman in "Mistress Nell" and "As You Like It," in which plays Miss Crossman will make the first tour of the South.

Dixon, Bowers and Dixon, "The Mud Town Rubes," are Manager Moore's headliners this week at the Court theater in Wheeling.



SCENE FROM THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

AT THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18